(i) The policy aims at providing support to State Governments to establish State-wide Area Networks (SWANs) from the State Headquarters up to the Block level with a minimum bandwidth capacity of 2 Mbps. These network would be connected to NICNET through appropriate interfaces.

(ii) For the State to be eligible for funding under the policy, it should have undertaken implementation of three major State-wide e-Governance projects that require such connectivity. At least one of these projects should have been completely rolled out over the entire State.

(iii) As per the policy, Department of Information Technology will meet the capital and operational costs of the network over a period of 5 years. The respective States will have to bear Bandwidth/Transponder access cost required for the network, Physical Site and all other related recurring costs.

(iv) State may opt to implement the SWAN either through National Informatics Centre (NIC) or through any other agency selected by the State.

(v) State Government would adhere to the Guidelines for Security, Standardization, Inter-operability and Interconnect requirements between NICNET and the SWAN.

(c) It is estimated that an expenditure of about Rs. 1000 crore by the Centre over a period of five years would be required for the coverage of all States.

Replacement of land-line phones by WLL/Mobile phones

†93. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating any scheme in the coming days of providing WLL or Mobile phones only to the consumers by withdrawing the land-line phone system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The licences issued by the Government for provision of various access services are technology neutral and the operators are free to provide connections on Wireless in Local Loop (WLL), Mobile or Landlines.

Job guarantee for IT experts

94. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's domestic IT Industry is expected to record a growth of 11 percent in 2003-04 touching a revenue of Rs. 33,700 crores.

(b) if so, the share of software and services in this growth and whether India has adequate number of jobs for such experts in our expanding IT markets; and

(c) The share of 'Call Centres' who absorb such trained personnel and with the expected dwindling number of 'Call Centres' has any contingency plan being thought of to absorb such retrenched personnel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. According to NASSCOM estimates, the Indian domestic IT industry is projected to record a turn over of Rs. 33,750 crores in 2003-04, a growth of 11 percent over 2002-03.

(b) The share of software and services was Rs. 15,350 crores during 2003-04. The vibrant Indian IT industry has adequate job potential to absorb the IT experts.

(c) The share of domestic IT enabled services was Rs. 1,200 crores during 2003-04. The current trend in the number of Call Centres indicates an increase in numbers.